

# Current State of Undergraduate Admissions

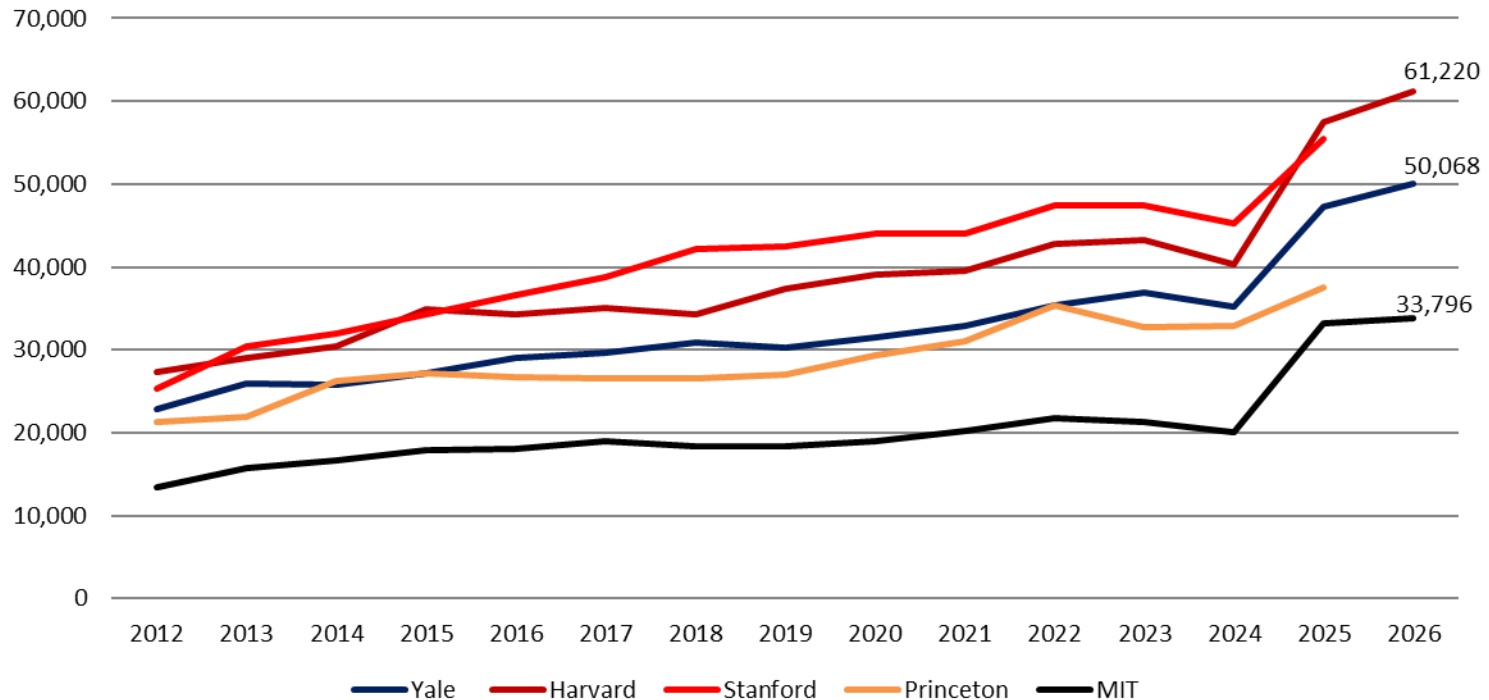
For Reunions 2023

Yale University

May 2023

# Changes in the Yale Applicant Pool

Total first-year applicants (by class year)



- The scale of application increases abated among our peers after a near-universal increase of ~33% in the previous year. This year's 6% increase still came as a surprise, especially after a decrease in early applications and lack of in-person outreach opportunities.
- There are obviously many factors at play, but the test-optional policy is undoubtedly the largest contributing factor to application increases.

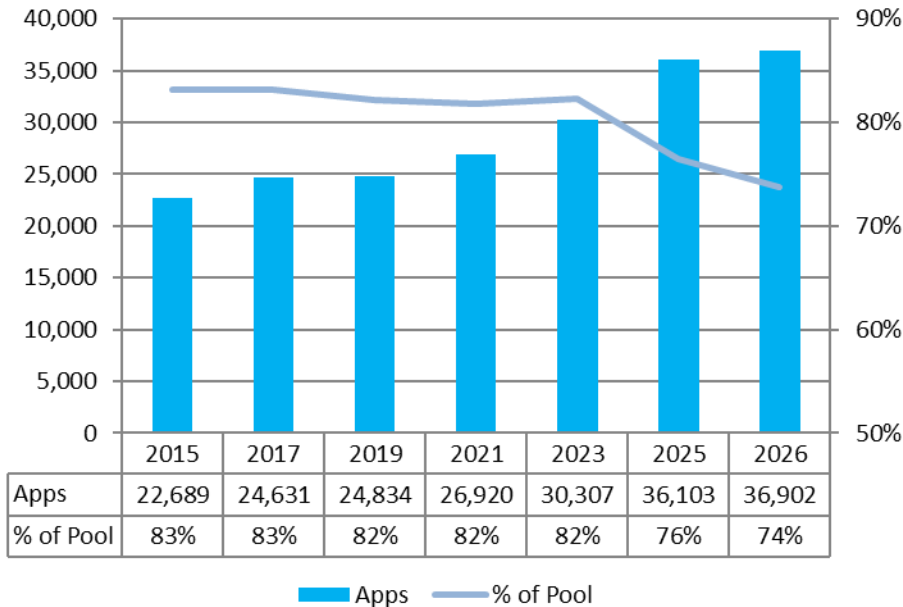
\*Stanford and Princeton will not release data until the fall via institutional research.

# What is behind application growth?

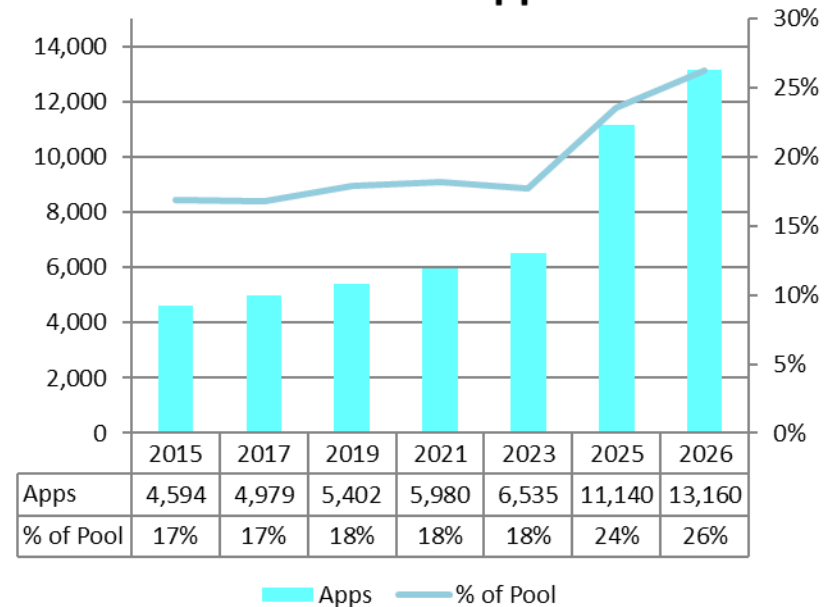
- Test optional admissions policy
- The Common Application, Coalition Application, and Questbridge Application have significantly lowered barriers to multiple applications.
- Increasing media focus on credentials vs. experience, most selective school brands, and “admissions frenzy.”
- Aggressive expansion of search lists and intensification of promotion with web, mail, email, phone, and travel.
- Awareness and Inclusion: Elite institutions have history of exclusion, which we have worked hard to overcome. It is nowhere near time to declare victory. More applications, particularly among targeted groups, are an absolute good and strong indication of health in both school reputation and messaging effectiveness.

# Changes in the Yale Applicant Pool

## Domestic Applicants



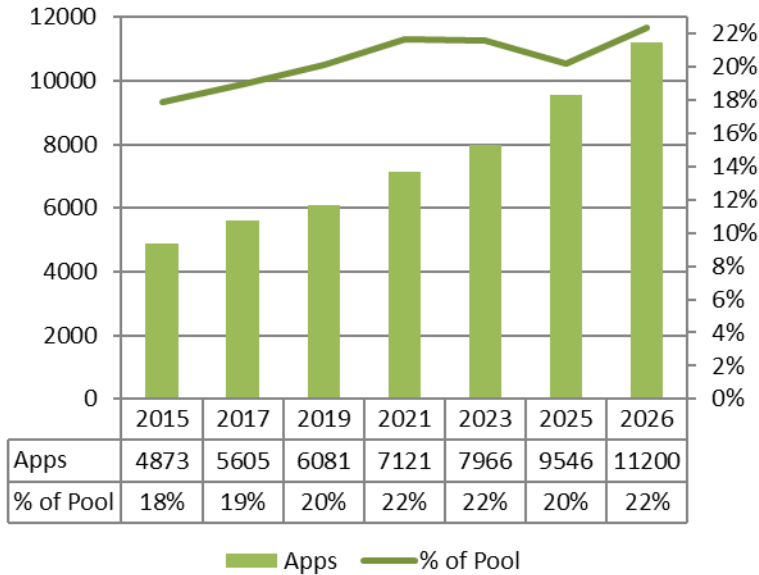
## International Applicants



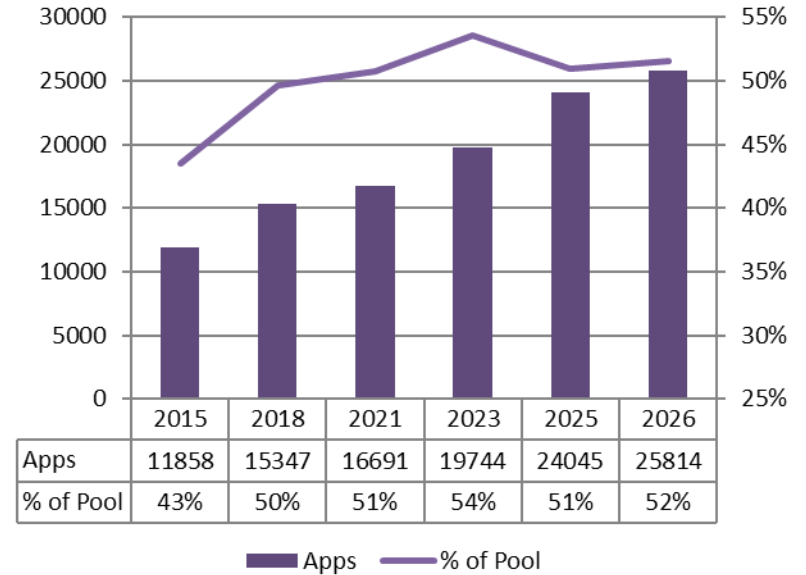
- The effects of the test-optional policy are clearest in our international pool, which was previously increasing in lock-step with the domestic pool before the pandemic.
- The international pool has now doubled in three years. The domestic pool increased by only 2% last year, and 22% in three years. Unfortunately, application quantity and quality have not increased in lockstep.

# Changes in the Yale Applicant Pool

## First Generation Applicants



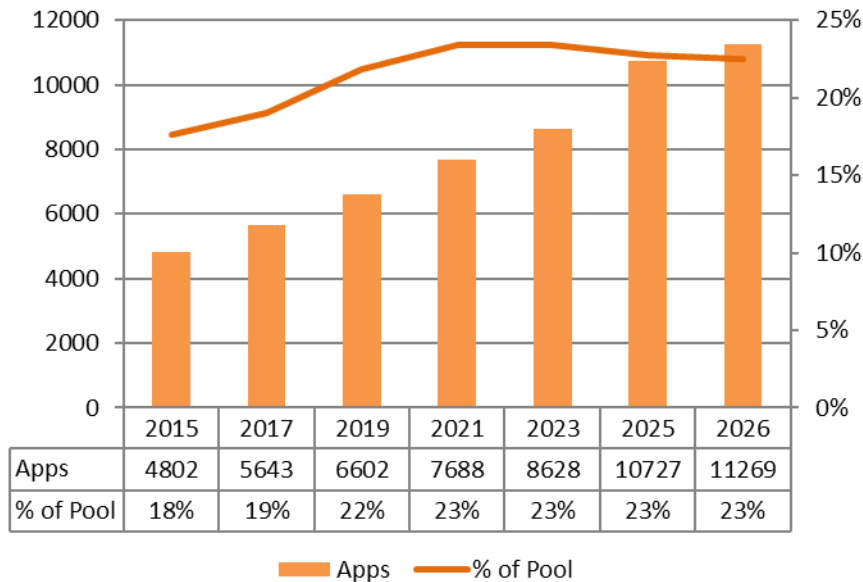
## STEM Intending Applicants



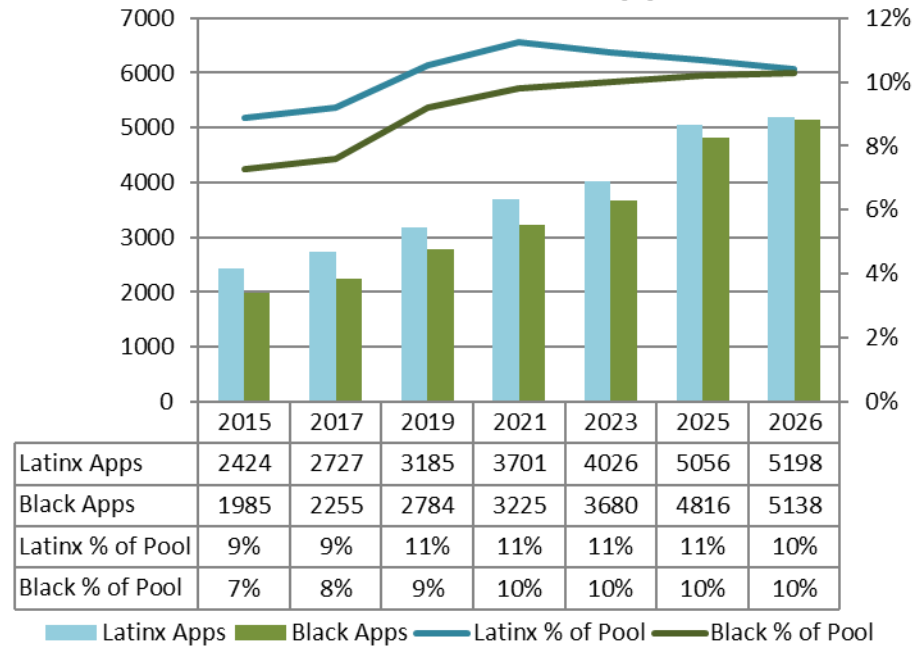
- First-Generation applicants increased 17%, outpacing the overall increase this past year. But, our test-optional policy has not generated a groundswell of new applicants among this group over the past few cycles, at least compared to other subgroups.
- STEM-intending applicants increased at a slightly higher rate (7%) than Arts & Humanities (5%) or Social Sciences (5%), falling back in line with pre-COVID trends.

# Changes in the Yale Applicant Pool

## All Underrepresented Minority



## Black and Latinx Applicants



- Given the huge increase in international applicants, maintaining the overall share of URM applicants (US citizens only) represents a greater increase relative to other domestic groups.
  - Black applicants: +7%, Latinx applicants: +3%, all URM: +5%, overall domestic: +2%.
- For a second year, we find the pandemic and related policies have not fundamentally altered the decade-long trends in the racial/ethnic composition of the domestic applicant pool, which has seen steady growth in the share of the applicants from URM groups for approximately 15 years.

# Yale College Class of 2026

## First-Year Class Profile

<b>1,558</b> enrolled first-years	<b>4.6%</b> rate of admission		
	<b>50</b> students postponing matriculation (not included in figures below)		
<b>49:51</b> male:female	<b>50,015</b> first-year applicants Single-Choice Early Action: 7,366 Regular Decision: 42,649		
<b>53%</b> identify as students of color (US Cit. & Perm Res.)			
<b>20%</b> Pell Grant recipients	<b>18%</b> first-generation students	<b>12%</b> legacy affiliation	
<b>53%</b> students receiving a Yale need-based financial aid award		<b>1,147</b> high schools represented	
		<b>51</b> US states and territories represented	
<b>\$66,362</b> average scholarship award for financial aid recipients		<b>56</b> countries represented	
		<b>49 %</b> speak a language other than English at home or as a first language	

## Geographic Distribution by Residence

Northeast	31%
Middle Atlantic	9%
South	12%
Midwest	11%
Southwest	6%
West	18%
Other (incl. international)	14%

## High Schools Attended

*U.S. schools only; 214 students attended school outside of the U.S.*

Public	65%
Independent Day	20%
Boarding	8%
Religious	7%

## Background

*The following is based on self-reportal information students provided when they applied. A total of 5.3% of first-years are US citizens or Permanent Residents who identify as members of a minority group. Categories do not add up to 100% because 19% of domestic first-years indicated two or more races/ethnicities and are represented in more than one category.*

African American	13%
Asian American	27%
Hispanic/Latino	14%
Native American	3%
White	46%
International	12%

## High School Rank

*for first-years whose schools report class rank*

Top 10%	96%
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## Countries Represented by Residence

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zimbabwe

## Top 15 Intended Majors

*(80+ majors offered in Yale College)*

Biomedical Engineering; Chemistry; Computer Science; Economics; English; Environmental Studies; Ethics, Politics, & Economics; Global Affairs; History; History of Science, Medicine, & Public Health; Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology; Neuroscience; Political Science; Psychology; Sociology

*Note: In response to the pandemic, Yale temporarily suspended its requirement that first-year applicants submit results from the ACT or SAT. While this policy is in effect, the admissions office will not report data on the test scores or test-sharing choices of applicants, admitted students, or enrolling students. A decision on testing policy for the 2023-24 admissions cycle will be made in early 2023.*



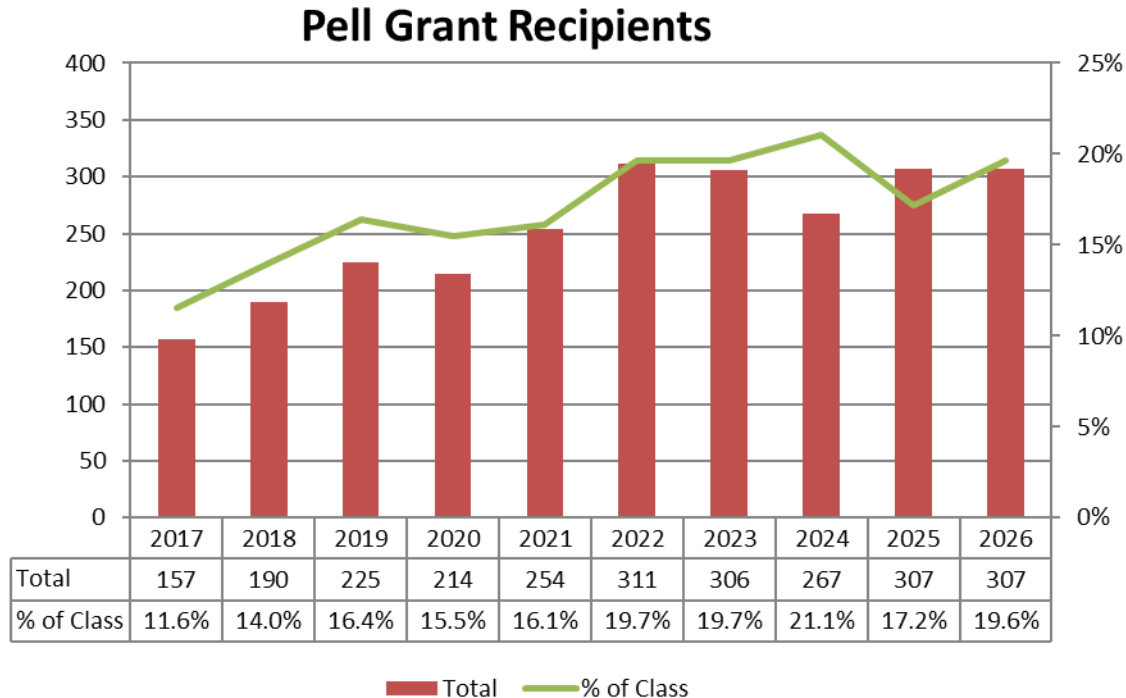
For detailed information about admissions and financial aid, please visit <http://admissions.yale.edu>  
Other questions? <http://admissions.yale.edu/questions>

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Yale

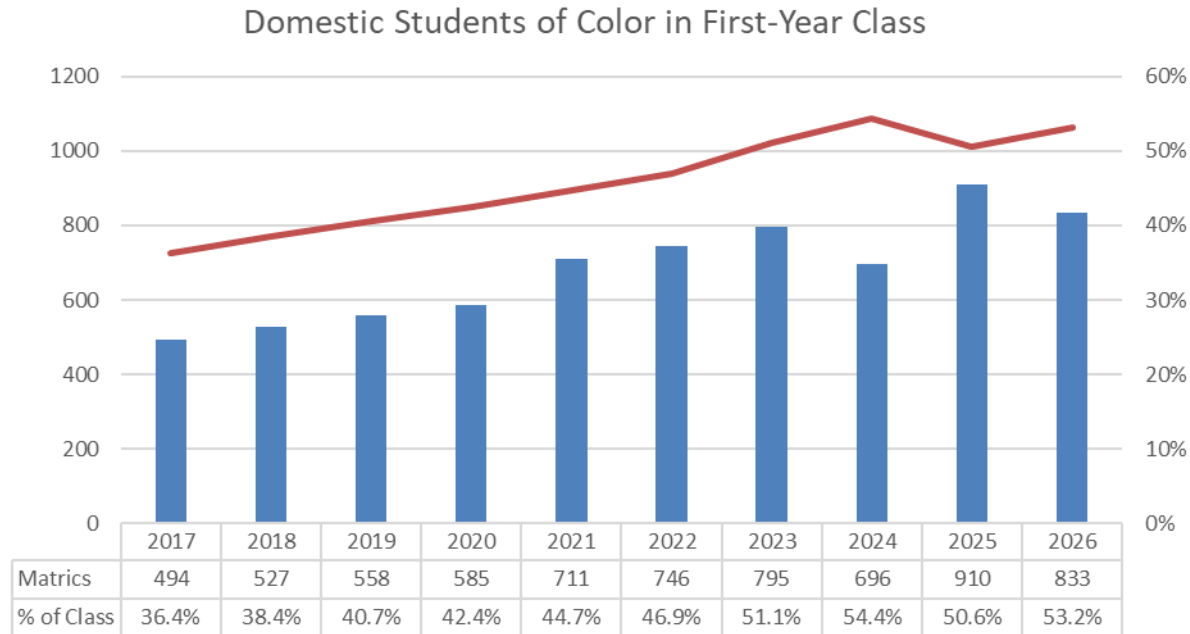


# Maintaining Historic Levels of Diversity



- The pandemic took our low-income efforts back by a small step, but this year saw a return to our pre-Covid levels.
  - When combining the classes of 2024 and 2025 to adjust for differences in gap year choices, 18.8% of students in those two incoming classes were Pell-Eligible.
- In-person yield programming and fly-in funding helped; a test-optional policy hasn't yet been associated with an uptick in applications from high-achieving low-income students.
- COFHE data for the Class of 2025 is not yet available, but Yale has remained within the top third of the Ivy group despite the pandemic shifts.

# Maintaining Historic Levels of Diversity



- The classes of 2024 and 2025 combined average 52.1% domestic students of color, which fits neatly in the linear trendline here.
- These increases have been led by different subgroups over the years. For example, this year the number of admitted African American students and their yield was especially high. Last year, Latinx students had record high numbers.

# The Process: Guidance from 1967

President Kingman Brewster wrote [an eloquent letter](#) to Director of Admissions John Muyskens, Jr., that remains a touchstone for our admission process. Although, Yale was still a single-sex institution at the time, efforts to diversify the student body had begun in earnest. Brewster's main criteria for admission remain relevant today:

- evidence of the potential to become “leaders in their generation” in government, business, society, the professions, academia, and other fields
- “a sharp and inquiring mind”
- “the motivation to stretch one’s capacity”
- “moral concern and consideration for others”
- “variety for its own sake” (diversity of backgrounds and interests)
- for some candidates, demonstrated ability in athletics or the arts
- “equality of opportunity” (and Brewster went on to sketch the importance of recognizing evidence of special potential in students from diverse “social and economic and racial” backgrounds)
- Brewster made special reference to legacy status, which he thought deserved a light thumb on the scale in recognition of “tradition, loyalty, [and] familiarity.”

# The Process: Whole Person and Contextual

- **Whole Person Review**

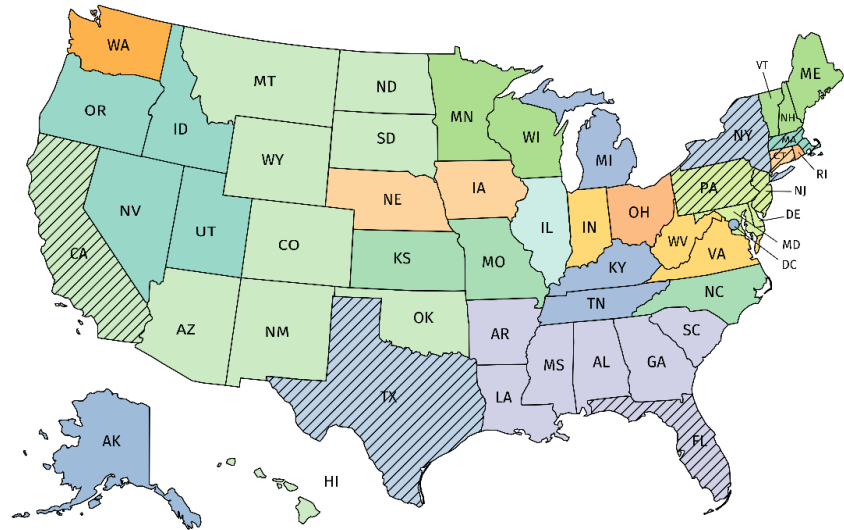
Evaluation of applicants through the consideration of all parts of a complete application, including how each part relates to the others.

- **Contextual Admissions**

Evaluation of applicants with an understanding of the unique context and background from which they are coming.

# Office Structure

- 23 admissions officers with their own distinct geographic territory
- Territory size and reading load varies from 300 to 3,000 depending on other office responsibilities
- Admissions officers generally travel to their territories in the fall or spring and manage relations with counselors and alumni interviewers in their territory



# Application Review

- Area officers are responsible for “first reads” on all applicants in their territory
  - 5 officers with “seasonal readers” who do a chunk of their territory’s first reads
- Competitive applicants will receive “second reads” either from full-time admissions officers or part-time “outside readers”
  - Dedicated outside readers for students with special promise in STEM or from particular backgrounds
- Both readers provide short writeups summarizing the file and commenting on strengths and weaknesses as well as fit for Yale

# Committee Process

- Each officer takes their territory through “area committee” to present the strongest cases. Area committees run Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm. 500-700 total cases a day, usually 60 get full discussion.

Early Action: 2 weeks of area committee

Regular Decision: 6 weeks of area committee

- Each area committee has 5 voting members:

The presenting officer

A committee chair (the Dean, Director, or another senior admissions officer)

A second admissions officer

A residential college dean

A Yale College faculty member

# Committee Process

- Committee is provided with a “slate” of all candidates for the day organized by high school, with at-a-glance info like GPA, test scores, reader ratings, etc
- Committee may spend anywhere from 5 minutes to 30 minutes on each individual case, including hearing first and second reader notes, discussion of area context, and review of selected documents
- In the final week or weeks leading up to decision release, review committees convene to:
  - Revisit complicated cases
  - Review late-breaking materials
  - Review athletic recruits, ROTC recruits, and other special groups
  - Review international applicants



# Future Use of Race in Admissions

- Work closely with Office of General Counsel to prepare for changes to admissions process based on a range of potential outcomes of Supreme Court ruling in June 2023.
- Begin work immediately to expand outreach efforts and pipelines into our applicant pool.
- Educate colleagues and relevant university stakeholders (Students, YC leadership, Faculty Committee, University trustees, etc.) about possible significant impacts to admissions process, student diversity, incoming students, and current students within Yale College.